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" (c) & (d) The time and energy spent on collecting this information will not be commensurate with the results."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether any of the Ministers had received a special permit for three hundred yards of cloth? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I would like to have notice, Sir, and certainly the question will be answered in due course."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether it was published in one of the Madras dailies? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I think there was also a statement on this published by the Publicity Officer of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that at present even card-holders are not able to obtain their ration cloth in the city? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the scarcity of mill cloth, may I ask whether the system of special permits will be altogether removed? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" There might arise some difficulties but I can assure the hon. member that they have been absolutely limited and this committee has been set up for that purpose."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Referring to answer to clause (c) of my question refers only to the city, may I ask if the list of persons for whom special permits have been sanctioned in the city cannot be furnished? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I would be glad to give that information but even that information will contain a number of pages."

Sanskrit colleges in the Province.

* 101 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO (on behalf of Sri K. Madhava Menon): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Sanskrit colleges in the Province and in what districts they are;

(b) how many of them are run by the Government and how many by private agencies;

(c) the names of the districts in which the Government are running the Sanskrit colleges;

(d) what are the courses of studies followed in the respective colleges; and

(e) how many of them are qualifying students for the Degree Course (B.O.L.)?

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" (a) to (e) A statement[a] furnishing the information is laid on the table."

Coupe contracts by Forest department.

* 102 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Forests be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are rules governing the sanction of coupe contracts given by the Forest department;

(b) who the competent authority to approve such contracts is;

(c) whether contracts can be entered into without calling for tenders in the exercise of the discretion of the sanctioning authority; and if so, whether limits to exercise such power have been imposed by rules;

(d) whether in respect of coupe contracts relating to the Silent Valley Estate in Palghat Division, coupe contracts have been entered into without calling for tenders; and if so, under what rule or authority;

(e) what the terms of these contracts are and who the contractors are;

(f) whether the contractors are outsiders; and if so, whether the local contractors were given an opportunity to offer their terms before approving the contract;

(g) what the periods of contracts are, and whether they can be terminated on any grounds; and

(h) whether the Government are aware that the activities of these contractors in this and other estates have resulted in the denudation of forests in those areas?

THE HON. SRI B. VENKATARATNAM :—" (a) Rules governing the sanction of coupe contracts given by the Forest department are laid down in section 130 of the Madras Forest Department Code and in section 3 (i) on page 102 of Range Officers Manual.

" (b) The District Forest Officer is competent to enter into and deal with contracts not exceeding Rs. 10,000 and for contracts above this limit the previous approval of the Conservator is necessary.

" (c) Contracts can be entered into without calling for tenders in the exercise of the discretion of the sanctioning authority. No monetary limit has been imposed for the exercise of these powers.

" (d) & (e) The Government decided to lease the Silent Valley Forests to Messrs. Hope Timber Syndicate without calling for tenders. The terms of the lease are, briefly that the lessees will be permitted to extract timber from the leased area under the prescriptions of the working plan for a period of fifteen years, that for the timber so extracted they should pay at rates which have been fixed on the basis of rates obtained for similar

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 416 infra.